Why are some cats missing the tip of their left ear?

Eartipping is the universal sign of an altered (spay/neutered) feral/community cat. Eartips are visible from a distance, making it easy for caretakers, vets, and animal control personnel to immediately identify cats that have been spayed or neutered, avoiding the stresses of retrapping for TNR programs.

At the time of spay/neuter surgery, vets remove one centimetre (1 cm) from the tip of the left ear.

This procedure is performed under sterile conditions while the cat is anesthetized. It involves little to no bleeding, is relatively painless, and does not significantly alter the cat's appearance.

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